



COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATS
ENERGY & COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

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CONTACT

Christine Brennan — (202) 225-5735

**Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on “Continued Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”**

Thank you Chairman Walden for holding this hearing. And thank you to Chairman Wheeler and Commissioner Pai for coming back up here today. It has been a busy few months since you last testified before this subcommittee, and I appreciate your willingness to come give us an update.

I am particularly grateful for this opportunity to hear from Chairman Wheeler about how he is addressing the priorities of the Democratic members of this subcommittee—many of which are shared by our Republican colleagues.

Our members are champions for improving universal access to broadband in the many underserved rural areas of our country. They have also been tireless advocates for the rights of residents of our vast tribal lands. Too often, those living on tribal lands are unfairly left on the wrong side of the digital divide. I hope to hear how the FCC can help our efforts to improve deployment to these areas where the economics alone are not enough.

Our members have also been devoted to improving public safety communications. This is especially meaningful for those of us whose districts were impacted by disasters like Hurricane Sandy. We believe that everyone should be able to call for help in an emergency. I hope we hear more about what the Commission is doing to make our vision into a reality.

Our members also share Chairman Wheeler’s commitment to competition. That is why we led the charge to overhaul the FCC’s designated entity program. Under the new rules that the FCC recently adopted, the program encourages robust participation from bona fide small businesses while allowing innovative business models more in line with today’s dynamic wireless market. We have also stood with my friend from California, Ranking Member Eshoo, in her battle to free up more spectrum for unlicensed use. These airwaves can lower barriers to entry and allow for more vigorous competition.

Finally, I hope to learn more about what the Commission can do to support our work to protect consumers. For instance, I know several members of the subcommittee have been

focused on the FCC's recent actions to address robocalls. We all agree that more needs to be done to crack down on unwanted commercial calls. I hope to hear what the Commission can do to address the issues our members have raised.

I look forward to hearing from the witnesses on these priorities as well as all the ways they can support the work of this subcommittee.

I yield the remainder of my time to Mr. Doyle and Ms. Matsui.

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